

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERN 00754 251519Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /045 W
-----251533 044600 /50

O 251450Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3951
INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DOD WASHDC IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS BERN 0754

EO 11652: NA

SUBJ: NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

1. FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE APPEARED IN FEB 24 ISSUE
OF SENSATION-SEEKING NEWSPAPER "BLICK" ASSERTING
THAT U S WAS AWARE MONTHS BEFORE SWISS AUTHORITIES
THAT GENERAL JEANMAIRIE WAS A SOVIET SPY, THAT DOD
PLACED SWITZERLAND ON ITS BLACKLIST AS A SECURITY
RISK AS A RESULT AND BEGAN TO WITHHOLD FORMERLY
AVAILABLE TECHNICAL INFO (SPECIFICALLY, LETTING QUESTIONS
ABOUT "STINGER" SYSTEM" FALL ON DEAF EARS"), AND THAT
GENERAL BOLLIGER'S "DIFFICULT TRIP OVER THE ATLANTIC"
WAS TAKEN TO QUIET U S FEARS. ONLY QUESTION REMAINING, SAID
"BLICK", WAS WHETHER U S' ORIGINAL INFO CAME FROM GERMANS.

2. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED ONLY TWO INQUIRIES REGARDING ABOVE
STORY: FROM SWISS TELEVISION NEWS AND ZURICH NEWSPAPER "TAGES
ANZEIGER". SPOKESMAN REPLIED AS FOLLOWS: "WITHIN THE LIMITS
IMPOSED BY SWISS NEUTRALITY, WHICH THE U S IS CAREFUL TO RESPECT,
THE AMICABLE RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS EVOLVED BETWEEN THE MILITARY
AUTHORITIES OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES IS OF LONGSTANDING, AND IT
CONTINUES UNCHANGED."

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3. NO RPT NO MENTION OF "BLICK" STORY OR RESPONSE APPEARED
IN FEB 25 "TAGES ANZEIGER".

4. SWISS TV INTERVIEWED SWISS DEFENSE MINISTRY SPOKESMAN
ON CAMERA AS ITEM IN FEB 24 NIGHTLY NEWS. EMBASSY WAS
MENTIONED IN ANNOUNCER'S INTRODUCTION AS DENYING, ALONG
WITH MINISTRY, THAT "BLICK" STORY WAS ACCURATE. MINISTRY

SPOKESMAN (ERNST MORGELI) EMPHASIZED WARM RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIS MINISTRY AND DOD, SAID HE UNAWARE OF ANY CHANGE IN ATTITUDE, CITED DISCUSSIONS ON DRAGON AS EXAMPLE OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS, AND SEEMS TO HAVE PUT "BLICK" STORY TO REST.

5. WE UNDERSTAND FROM DEF MINISTRY SPOKESMAN THAT HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SWISS EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, AND WE ASSUME THAT EMBASSY WILL CONTACT STATE DEPT. DAVIS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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